

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 92-023-R - ORDER NO. 95-1482
AUGUST 29, 1995

IN RE: Application of South Carolina Electric &)	ORDER
Gas Company for Adjustments in the Company's)	RULING
Coach Fares and Charges, Routes, and Route)	ON
Schedules.)	COMPLAINT

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the complaint of Ms. Beth Baxley against South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G or the Company). The complaint alleges that buses operated by SCE&G's transit system travel down her residential street. According to Ms. Baxley, these buses are dangerous for the children in the neighborhood, and the property in the area is devalued. Ms. Baxley and other residents of the area want the bus route changed so that the SCE&G buses do not travel down Berkeley Road. Other residents of the area have asked that the route be left as is.

A public hearing was held on August 16, 1995 at 2:30 p.m. in the offices of the Commission with the Honorable Rudolph Mitchell, presiding. Beth Baxley testified on her own behalf. Curtis Hamilton testified on behalf of SCE&G, and several public witnesses testified.

Beth Baxley appeared pro se. SCE&G was represented by Sarena D. Burch, Esquire, and the Commission Staff was represented by F.

David Butler, General Counsel.

Ms. Baxley testified that she lives on Berkeley Road, and that there are numerous children on Berkeley Road. Ms. Baxley's complaint is that the road contains a steep hill and a curve, and that it is hard to see, that further, the buses are a danger to the children in the neighborhood because a bus will suddenly appear on the street when rounding a curve, and that there is a potential for children crossing the street to be hit. Ms. Baxley further stated that no one on Berkeley Road was notified of the route change.

Curtis Hamilton testified for SCE&G and answered Commission questions. Various members of the public testified that moving the route would be very inconvenient for them, as several of the people who testified were employed on and around Berkeley Road. Moving the route would make it a longer walk for the people to reach their place of employment from the bus stops.

The Commission has examined this matter and denies the request to modify the bus route. It appears to this Commission that it would be of little benefit to modify the present bus route. We believe that any new route would most certainly contain streets where children reside. We do believe, however, and hold that the Company should educate its bus drivers as to speed limits, especially in the Berkeley Road area and emphasize safety, such as reminding bus drivers to watch out for pedestrians along their route, and to avoid driving on sidewalks.

The Complaint is therefore denied.

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This Order shall remain in full force and effect until
further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)